



California Regional Blueprint Planning Program

The California Regional Blueprint Program is a vital source of planning funding for regions throughout the State of California. A total of twenty million dollars in federal transportation planning funds has been awarded by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) since the program was initiated in 2005. In 2009, five million dollars was granted to nine Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and nine rural Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs) to support transportation planning activities across California. Since the genesis of the Program, seventeen MPOs and thirteen rural RTPAs have participated in Blueprint-related planning activities. An additional \$1 million is being made available to rural RTPAs in 2009/2010, and new first-time applicants are anticipated.

Regional Blueprint grants help MPOs and rural RTPAs engage in public outreach to select a community-preferred vision of what the region should look like in the future. The resulting Regional Blueprints help communities to preserve what they value and identify ways to move toward what they want to become. The Program helps MPOs and rural RTPAs to improve their modeling capacity, enhancing their ability to perform integrated transportation/land use planning. The funds support regions' outreach to local elected officials, supplying data that informs them about ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and plan for infrastructure investments within their communities. Regional Blueprints encourage them to consider a regional context as they exercise their authority to make local land use decisions.

Through Regional Blueprints, regional transportation planning agencies attempt to balance transportation planning with land use planning, housing needs, resource protection and other planning issues in order to inform decision makers about how to achieve more sustainable regional growth patterns and improve the quality of life within their regions. Regional Blueprints are tools that are contributing to the creation of enduring communities throughout California.

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California Regional Blueprints and Blueprint Related Efforts Through December 2009

